



Proposal for an Off-Leash Dog Recreation Areas

**Within the Southwest Corridor Park
Near Anson Street**

DCR Public Meeting

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
The English High School Auditorium
144 McBride Street, Jamaica Plain Boston 02130**



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Charles D. Baker

Lieutenant Governor

Karyn E. Polito

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Matthew A. Beaton

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

Leo Roy



DCR Mission Statement

To protect, promote and enhance our
common wealth of natural, cultural
and recreational resources
for the well-being of all

Welcome!

Purpose of the Meeting

DCR will present, and obtain feedback on, a proposal to establish an off-leash dog recreation area within the Southwest Corridor Park near Anson Street.

Ongoing DCR Off-Leash Dog Area Initiative

- There is growing need for off-leash dog recreation areas.
- The establishment of these areas requires consideration of natural and cultural resources and other park uses.
- DCR is holding a series of public meetings to engage stakeholders, abutters, and park users in dialogue regarding additional off-leash recreation areas.

Overview/Background

We invite Dog Owners to be Park Users and Park Partners

Dogs and their owners are welcome in DCR's parks, and we encourage all dog owners and their dogs to be respectful of other park users and neighbors. Join us in the stewardship of our parks by being a responsible dog owner and park partner.



Overview/Background

DCR welcomes dogs on-leash at most DCR parks, forests, and reservations. However, there is a number of locations where dogs are not allowed, mostly for public safety, public health, or habitat concerns or deed restriction purposes.



Overview/Background

DCR's new regulations ([302 CMR 12.13 and 302 CMR 12.17\(5\)](#)) were effective October 24, 2014 and include the designation of appropriate “off-leash” areas and call for a permit process for commercial dog walkers.

More information at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/recreational-activities/dogs-in-massparks.html>

Benefits of Off-Leash Dog Recreational Areas

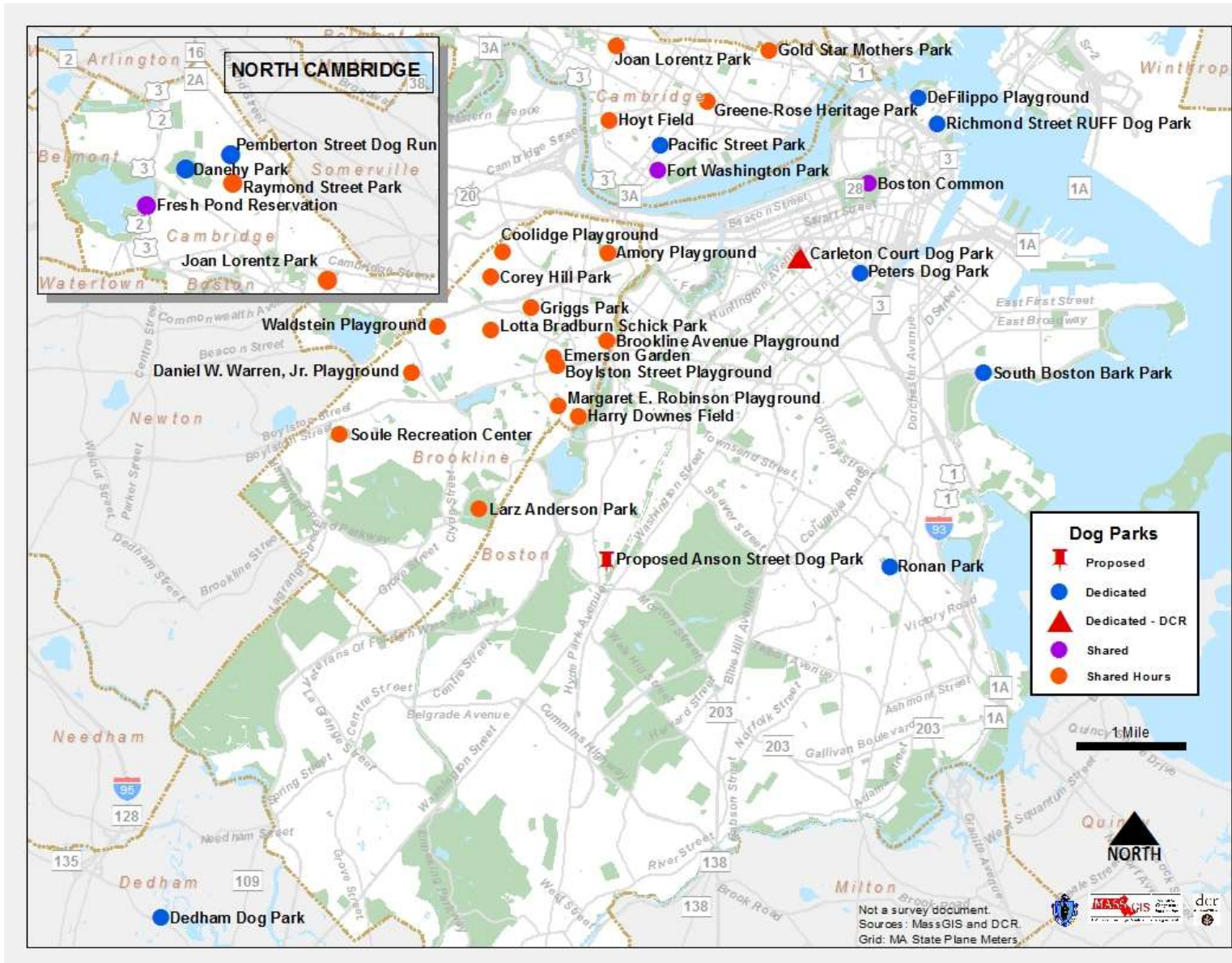
- Create public spaces for dog owners to recreate with their dogs off-leash
- Dogs learn to socialize/play with other dogs
- Foster community and new friendships
- Create safer parks/neighborhoods, more recreation areas
- Increase dog owner investment in parks

Today's Presentation

1. Map of Existing Dog Parks in the Region
2. Site Criteria/Location
3. Implementation Considerations
 - Suggested Design Features
 - Operations



Regional Dog Parks



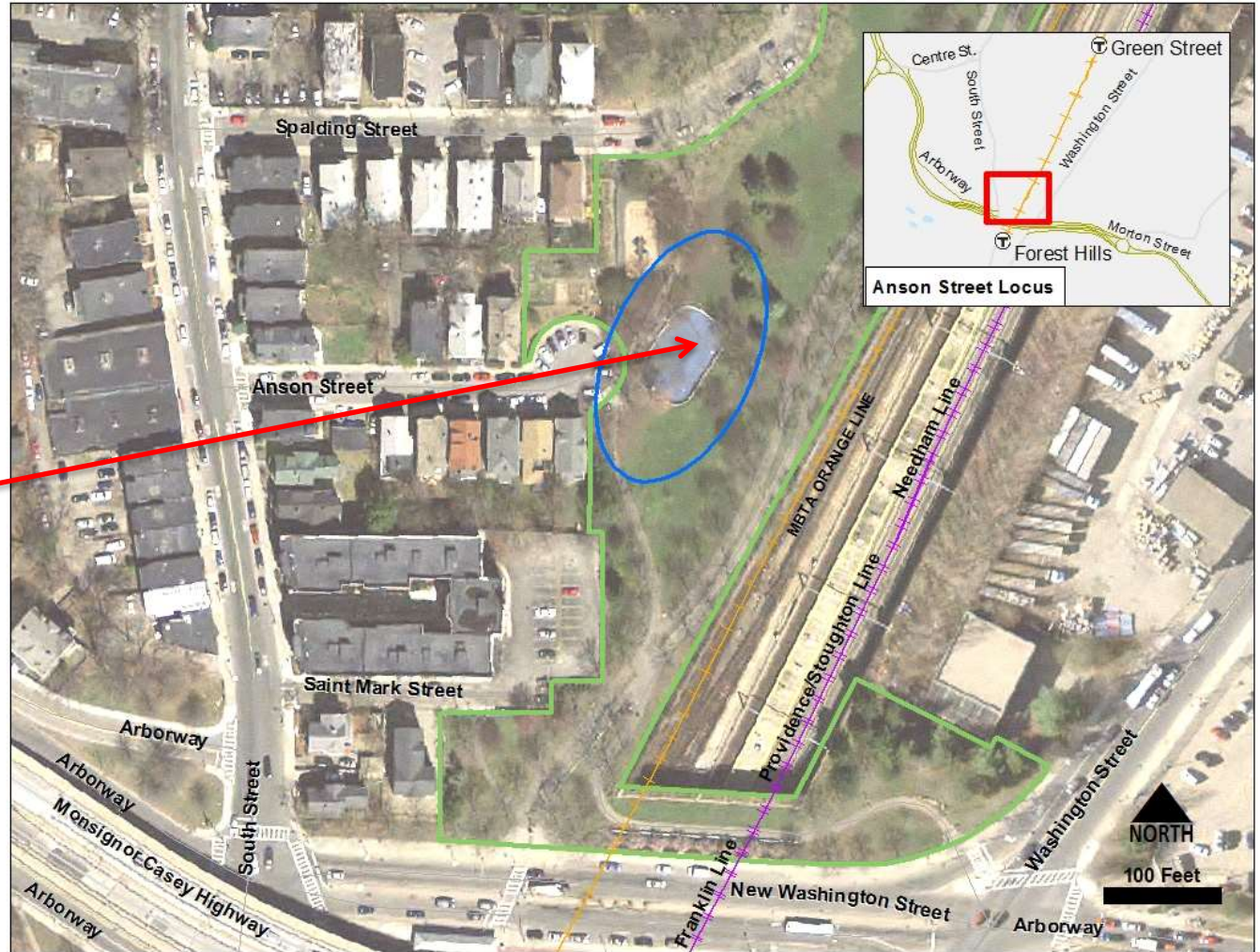
Site Location Criteria

- Demand and Interest
- Geographic Distribution
- Size
- Access
- Shade
- Conflict Avoidance
- Public Health and Safety
- Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources

Location

**Proposed
location of
dog park**

**Area:
Approximately
4,000 Sq. Ft.**







Anson Street Park – Existing Conditions



Implementation Considerations

DESIGN FEATURES

- Fence Enclosure
- Signage
- New poured in place or pea stone surface
- ADA Access
- Drainage Improvements
- Site furnishings/infrastructure, e.g., trash cans, mutt mits, dog water fountains, benches

ESTIMATED COST \$75,000-\$100,000

OPERATIONS

- Open dawn to dusk
- No commercial dog walkers allowed

Possible Examples of Signage and Information Kiosk



Possible Examples of Dog Amenities



Possible Examples of Other Amenities



Commercial Dog Walker Permits

- DCR has a draft Commercial Dog Walkers Permit
- \$100 annual fee for up to four dogs
- \$200 annual fee for up to eight dogs
- No more than eight dogs allowed per permit/walker
- One time application fee of \$35.00

How Friends Groups can support Dog Parks:

- Educate – Off-Leash Training Sessions
 - Perform Community Outreach – “Meet and Greet” events
 - Carry out Volunteer Activities – Support for upkeep and maintenance
 - Fund-raise
 - Support DCR in seeking Sponsorships
-
- Contact Nick Connors, Director of External Affairs and Partnerships 617-626-4997

Next Steps/Timetable

- Public comment period (April 5 to April 21, 2017)
- Review of public comments
- Assess community support for this site and make decision

Q&A/Discussion



Additional Information

For more information:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/>

If you have comments or suggestions on this project:

Submit online:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/submit-public-comments/>

Write: Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of Public Outreach
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114

Deadline: Friday, April 21, 2017

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR may be posted on the DCR website in their entirety.

If you wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-related listserv: contact DCR's Office of Community Relations at 617-626-4973 or Mass.Parks@state.ma.us.